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Society of College,
National and University
Libraries

For immediate release

**Higher Education Academy awards
funding for research review on
information literacy**

London, 14 December 2005 – The Higher Education Academy has announced funding for a project to review the research literature relating to information literacy. The project follows fruitful discussions between the Academy and SCONUL (the Society of College, National and University Libraries) which highlighted the importance of information literacy in higher education today.

The web review of research literature aims to inform practitioners, policy-makers and researchers in UK higher education by illuminating key concepts, evidence and issues concerning information literacy in students' experience of learning. This will include a focus on approaches to teaching and the support of information literacy, and on the impact of information literacy and libraries on the student learning experience.

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The topic is relevant to higher education policy and practice and has been identified after broad discussion with the sector. The review will lead to evidence-informed approaches to policy and practice and will explore different reviewing methodologies in order to help focus future approaches to reviewing issues related to higher education.

The review is the fifth on topics relevant to higher education policy and practice funded by the Higher Education Academy.

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For further information, contact: Hilary Johnson, Chair, SCONUL Working Group on Information Literacy, Director of Information Resources & Services, The University of Northampton, Park Campus Library, Boughton Green Road, Northampton NN2 7AL, Tel: 01604 892045/6, E-mail: hilary.johnson@northampton.ac.uk

Notes for editors

- 1 The Higher Education academy is an independent organisation founded in May 2004 and funded by grants from the four UK funding bodies, subscriptions from higher education institutions, and grant and contract income for specific initiatives. Its mission is to help institutions, discipline groups and all staff to provide the best possible learning experience for their students. For general information about the Higher Education Academy research literature review scheme, contact Dan Painter at HEA. <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk>
- 2 SCONUL is the professional association representing the directors of libraries in all the universities in the UK and Ireland, and in most other UK institutions of higher education. (It also represents the directors of national libraries on both sides of the Irish Sea.)
- 3 SCONUL has been studying and developing the concept of information literacy since 1999, and has produced an authoritative study of the topic: *Seven pillars of wisdom? Good practice in information skills development*, edited by Sheila Corrall and Helen Hathaway. 98pp, 2000 ISBN 0900 210 230. http://www.sconul.ac.uk/activities/inf_lit/